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**"The Force is strong
with this one."**

*Darth Vader,
Star Wars: A New Hope*

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the Clones!

That's not all, there are many
more amazing surprises and
secrets to be revealed....

May the Force be with
you all!

Jonathan Wilkins,
Editor

DOCKING BAY

THIS ISSUE....

FEATURES



LUKE SKYWALKER!

MARK HAMILL DISCUSSES HIS TIME AS A JEDI,
WORKING WITH ALEC GUINNESS, AND WHY
STAR WARS ENDURES!



GEORGE LUCAS

THE CREATOR OF THE *STAR WARS* SAGA
JOINS *STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS*
SUPERVISING DIRECTOR DAVE FILONI TO TALK ABOUT
THE HIT ANIMATED SERIES!



MY *STAR WARS*

SIMON PEGG TAKES A BREAK FROM THE
STAR TREK UNIVERSE TO EXPLAIN WHY
HE LOVES *STAR WARS*!



LANDO!

SUAVE SUPERSTAR BILLY DEE
WILLIAMS FACES SOME DIFFICULT
QUESTIONS. WILL HIS FEATHERS REMAIN UNRUFFLED?



DROID STORY!

C-3PO AND R2-D2'S GREATEST
MOMENTS REVEALED!



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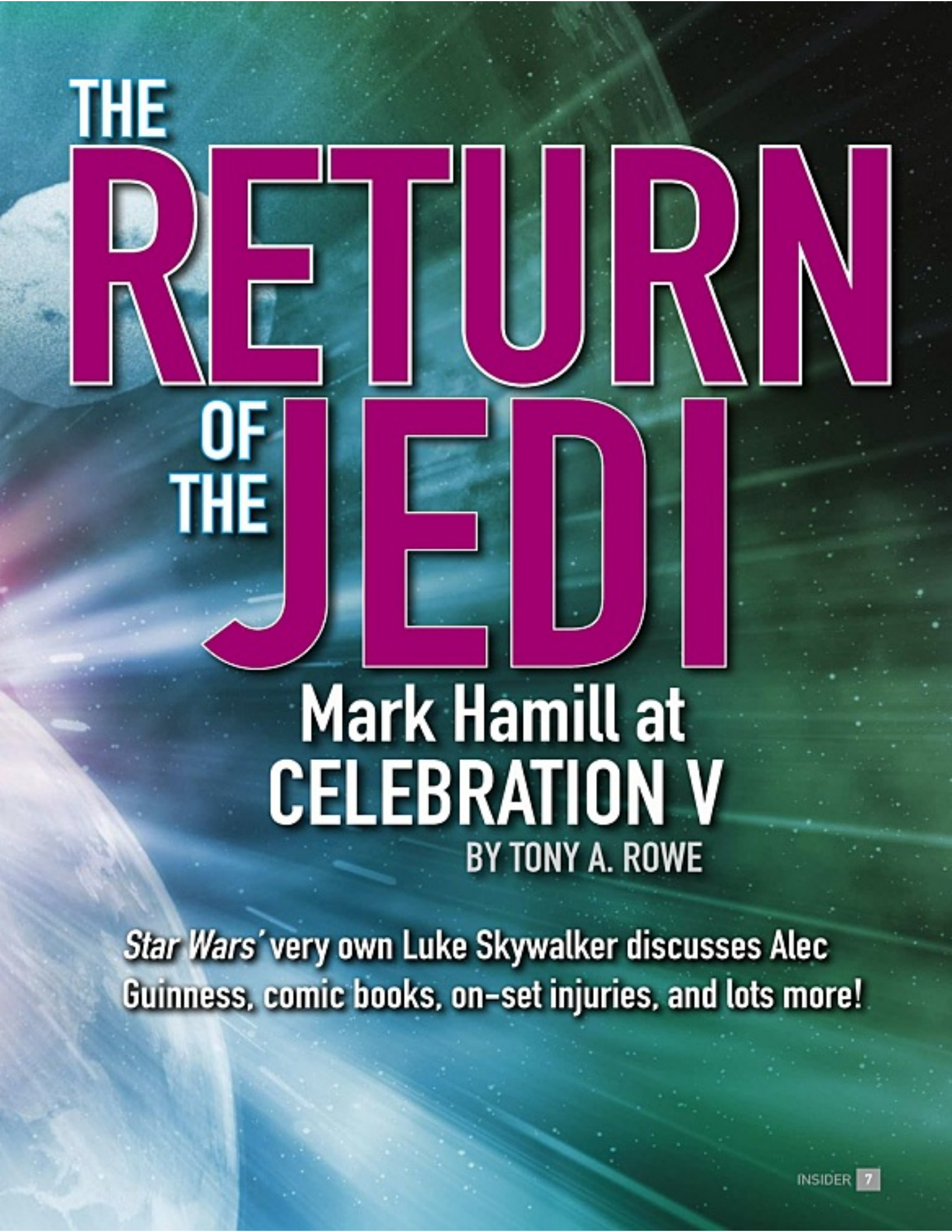


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EXCLUSIVE
TO COMIC STORES



The background of the entire page is a vibrant, abstract image representing the Star Wars universe. It features a deep green and blue color palette with streaks of light and energy, suggesting a space battle or a celestial event. On the left side, a portion of a planet's surface is visible, showing a light blue and white horizon. The overall effect is dynamic and immersive, typical of Star Wars promotional art.

THE RETURN OF THE JEDI

Mark Hamill at
CELEBRATION V

BY TONY A. ROWE

Star Wars' very own Luke Skywalker discusses Alec Guinness, comic books, on-set injuries, and lots more!

A few thousand lucky guests had the rare opportunity to see Mark Hamill live at *Star Wars Celebration V* in Orlando, Florida. Hamill played the role of Luke Skywalker and counts himself as one of the first *Star Wars* fans. When moderator Jay Laga'aia (Captain Typho) brought him onto the stage, the thrilled audience welcomed him with a standing ovation.

"I am overwhelmed by this response," Hamill began. "I know there are fans but I think you guys are UPFs: the Ultra-Passionate Fans. You, like me, are on the inside looking out. All those other people who don't get it? Those are the 'civilians.' I feel that way being a comic book fan."

Hamill traces his comic book fandom back to being the middle child of seven in a military family. "My father was in the Navy, so we moved from coast to coast to coast. Maybe what I needed was attention. The first things that I remember loving were the comic strips that came to my doorstep every day. I learned to read from [those] strips.



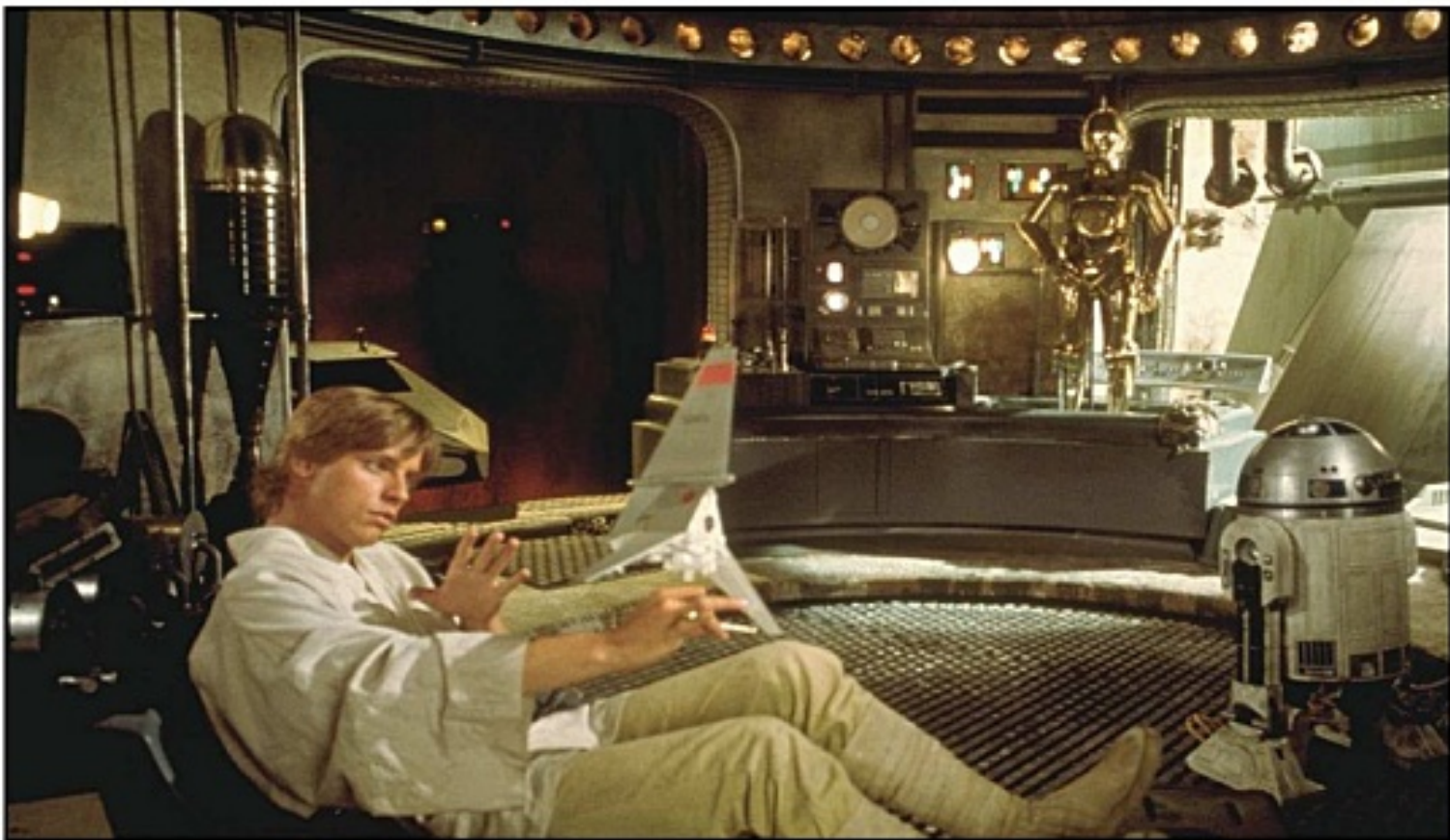
Above: Hamill meets Hammer horror legend Peter Cushing on the *Star Wars* set. **Below:** Dreaming of adventure in a scene from *A New Hope*.

I loved to draw and idolized [Peanuts creator] Charles M. Schulz.

"Later, I loved the Universal horror films that were, of course, banned in our house. I was told, 'You're not seeing that stuff,' and that just made me want to watch even more. You might as well buy me the ticket and drive me to the theater when you say that. I learned that as a parent; you can't be too strict.

"I loved *Frankenstein* with Boris Karloff, *The Wolf Man*, Bela Lugosi as *Dracula*, and Christopher Lee and Peter Cushing in the Hammer films. *King Kong* is probably still my all-time favorite movie."

The young Hamill built model kits of movie creatures and studied *Famous Monsters of Filmland* magazine for behind-the-scenes secrets. "The issue that told you





I found out that both Alec Guinness and Peter Cushing were going to be in [Star Wars], I was just beside myself. I remember reading the script and thinking, 'Darn, I'm not in any scene with Peter Cushing!'

"I was terrified to meet Sir Alec Guinness for the first time." The two met when the *Star Wars* crew all flew to London for preproduction work. Guinness invited him to lunch. "I couldn't believe it. I went to a restaurant in London to meet him and thought, 'If I open my mouth, I'm going to cry like a little girl.' I couldn't breathe. I kept calling him Sir Alec and he just finally got fed up with it. At one point he sort of tapped my face to get my attention, twice lovingly, and the third time a little too hard for comfort. He stated, 'I want to be known by my name, not my accolade.' I replied, 'Well, what



"I THOUGHT 'IF I OPEN MY MOUTH I'M GOING TO CRY LIKE A LITTLE GIRL'"

how they did the stop-motion animation [for *King Kong*] was fascinating to me. I wanted to let it be magic, yet I couldn't stop reading how it was done. I have reservations about making-of documentaries, because I like [movies] to be magic. When you see how they are filmed, it's like a magician revealing his greatest secrets. You want to know but when you learn, it's kind of disappointing."

Fandom runs deep in the Hamill family. "My Mom was a huge Alec Guinness fan. She took me to see *The Ladykillers*, *The Lavender Hill Mob*, and *The Horse's Mouth*. When





Above: I'm ready to be a Jedi! Hamill prepares to shoot Luke's arrival on Dagobah.

do you want me to call you, Big Al?' That made him laugh. One of the things I learned about Sir Alec—see? I can't help myself—was that he had a great sense of humor. He loved people who were not pretentious and were comfortable with who they were.

"He was more proud of the Oscar nomination for his screenplay of *The Horse's Mouth* than he was for winning [the Academy Award for Best Actor] for *The Bridge on the River Kwai*. It was out of his realm; it was unexpected that he could be a screenwriter as well. I kept asking him about his career but he would say, 'No, no. I want to hear about your career.' I thought, *You want to hear about a dog food commercial, a soap opera, and a TV series that got canceled after four episodes?*"

During production on the first film, Hamill found himself in a friendly rivalry with Harrison Ford that closely mirrored the one between Luke and Han Solo. "As actors, you are paid to really relate to whatever [their part] is. It isn't surprising that people fall in love with their co-stars and these affairs happen and marriages break up. It's a blurry

line and you really start believing it." Ford and Hamill began jockeying for Carrie Fisher's attention, "not so much to make Carrie our girlfriend, but just to be cool around her or be funnier than the other guy. You can imagine my shock when I found out our status as siblings. It's like one of those 'good news, bad news' jokes. The good news is that there is an attractive woman in this universe; the bad news is that she's your sister. I remember asking George, 'Where are all the women in this universe?'"

While *A New Hope* remains his favorite film of the original trilogy, he states, "I love them all for different reasons. *Empire* was always the most surprising, the most challenging, and the



TATOOINE TEEN CLUB

Hamill's thoughts on the Biggs Darklighter scenes deleted from *A New Hope* couldn't quite fit into the time restrictions of a convention panel. *Star Wars Insider* brings you the rest of the story: Biggs (Garrick Hagon) pulls Luke aside at Tosche Station (the "teen club," as Hamill calls it), revealing his plan to desert the Imperial Academy and join the Rebel Alliance. Luke is shocked, planting the first seeds of rebellion in Luke's naive mind. The scene also lends emotional strength to Biggs's sacrifice to protect Luke from Darth Vader, giving the film a "World War II 'Let's do it for Johnny' kind of moment," as Hamill puts it.

most thought-provoking. The character of Yoda was such a revelation to me. He's really like Alec Guinness as a toad. You have all the depth and nuance and complexity of a character and Luke, like the audience, dismisses him because of how he looks. 'Get out of here; I'm going to eat my space sticks.' Of course, I've now become a lifelong Muppets fan."

To prepare for the lightsaber dueling scenes in *Empire*, Hamill endured a training regimen of fencing, gymnastics, and martial arts. "That was the most physically challenging of the three [films]. It's like going to work and being beaten up for 12 hours. I would come home with bruises on my body that looked like a relief map of Venezuela. Bob Anderson, an Olympic fencing champion, was doing the sword fighting for David [Prowse]. He made me look much better than I was. You learn the



Above, and right: Hamill leaps into action as Luke Skywalker. Below: *The Empire Strikes Back* director Irvin Kershner talks him through the wampa attack sequence.



routine as if it were choreographed. When you make mistakes, somebody that skilled can make your mistakes look purposeful."

Mark and his wife Marilou have a very special memory of the filming of *Empire*: the birth of their first son, Nathan. "We were [staying] at the house where A. A. Milne wrote *Winnie-the-Pooh*. This was also the place where we lost Brian Jones of The Rolling Stones, so it had great historical significance." Marilou went into labor and Mark escorted her to the hospital. Nathan was born in the "wee, small hours." Both mother and child were healthy and fine but in need of a rest.

Mark went to the house for a nap and planned to return to the hospital in





the morning. "I get this phone call saying, 'Mark, we just need one shot from you today.'" So Hamill, a team player even on his day off, went in to shoot a fateful scene of Luke attacking an Imperial Walker. "They said, 'Run toward the camera, look over your shoulder, get a shot off with your gun, and jump as far as you can.'" A boom microphone operator mentioned to him, "I'm surprised we brought you in for a gorilla-smoking-a-pipe shot." Hamill, certain that he misheard the operator, asked him for an explanation. "When you've got the jumpsuit on and the helmet with goggles on and you're about the size of your thumb on a big, wide frame, then it could be anybody in that shot; it could be a gorilla smoking a pipe." Hamill recalls, "I did the shot like they told me and jumped as far as I could toward the camera. When I landed, I sprained my thumb." Because of the injury, Hamill could not hold a lightsaber properly and many of the dueling scenes were postponed for several weeks until his thumb healed.

Laga'aia asked Hamill if he thought *Star Wars* would be such a huge hit when he read the first script. "Can you imagine sitting down



From top: Han, Luke, and Leia get ready to steal some speeder bikes; Shooting the chase in the safe confines of the studio; *Return of the Jedi* director Richard Marquand and Hamill prepare a scene.

to read the screenplay to what was then called, *The Adventures of Luke Starkiller*, as taken from *The Journal of the Whills*, Saga I: *The Star Wars*? I thought, 'Boy, they have to work on this title.' I started reading the script and I couldn't believe my eyes.

"I predicted that it would be bigger than *Planet of the Apes*, and I mean the one with Charlton Heston. Even if it tanked at the box office, it had 'cult classic' written all over it. It seemed to me that most science fiction was so serious up until that time. I said it's like the *Little Rascals* in outer space. It has its serious side, no question about it. It was wonderful the way they used the Force to appeal to people's spirituality without making them uncomfortable by talking about religion.

"You have a farm boy, a princess, a cynical space pirate, and a wizard. To me, it is much more like fairy tales and fables than it is science fiction. If we were traveling in horse-drawn carriages, it could be set in medieval times." ☺



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What's Lando's greatest asset?

His unparalleled charm, of course! That was one of the things that I thought was very important to that character.



Lando's smile is bigger than:

a) A Cloud City exhaust port, b) Jabba the Hutt, or c) Boba Fett's reputation.
The Milky Way!

When Lando owned the *Millennium Falcon*, did he trick out his ride?
He didn't need to. He owned something that was comparable to Las

Vegas. I think he was more concerned with the mechanics of the *Falcon*.

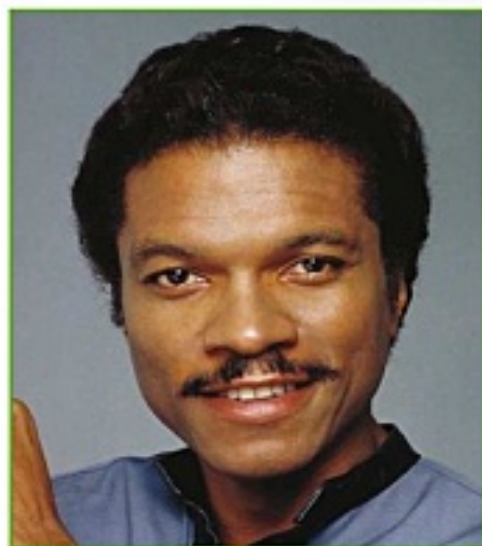
What drink did Lando most frequently sip while playing sabacc?

Colt 45! [For years, Williams was the commercial spokesman for the brand.]

Do you think Lando ever toyed with the idea of leaving Han in carbonite so he could make a move on Leia?

Oh, he wouldn't have to do that to make a move on Leia!
He'd just rely on his own ability to pull a girl in.

Above: The cape, the cards, and the Colt 45!
Left: Pure Cool.



NAME: BILLY DEE WILLIAMS

ALIAS: LANDO CALRISSIAN

FIRST APPEARANCE

Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back

What were some of Lando's most successful pick-up lines?

It's kind of a spontaneous thing. Depending on the situation, who the person is, and how he's affected by that person. I like to compliment people, especially if there's something very interesting about the person. I'm always quite open about how I view them.

Who was a better co-pilot for Lando in the *Falcon*—Chewbacca or Nien Nunb?

Nien Nunb. Chewbacca was much more loyal to Han Solo, so there was always that possibility of tension.

So who's the bigger ladies man: Lando Calrissian or Billy Dee Williams?

Oh, Lando Calrissian! I've been more of a ladies man in my time. Maybe it's a tie! 🍷



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MY STAR WARS

ACTOR, WRITER, AND *STAR WARS* FAN SIMON PEGG FIRST CAME TO PROMINENCE IN THE BRITISH HIT SHOW *SPACED*. HE WENT ON TO PLAY A RELUCTANT ZOMBIE KILLER IN *SHAUN OF THE DEAD* AND SCOTTY IN THE *STAR TREK* REBOOT. HE HAS RECENTLY WRITTEN HIS AUTOBIOGRAPHY *NERD DO WELL*.

WORDS: BONNIE BURTON

When was the last time you saw a *Star Wars* movie and what were the circumstances? Oddly enough, I watched *A New Hope* only a few weeks ago. I saw it on the shelf and had an urge to watch it. Like when you bump into an old friend and suddenly realize just how much you have missed them. It was like pulling on a familiar warm coat and made me feel very nostalgic and happy.



Which *Star Wars* character is your favorite and why?

That would have to be a split decision. I always loved Chewbacca, because I always wanted a dog as a kid (I have one now). There's something wonderful about having the loyalty of an animal companion. I know Chewie is a Wookiee and not an animal but his resemblance to that most faithful of furry companions is undeniable. It's as though your puppy grew up to be a crack shot with a bowcaster and an ace mechanic, even if he sometimes forgets what goes where. Never has any creature possessed such strength and fierce devotion while managing to remain somehow cute.

The other would have to be Princess Leia, simply because she was my first love. I can still feel the ache I experienced as a child when seeing her picture or glimpsing behind-the-scenes footage of Carrie Fisher on set. I guess it was Carrie I was in love with really, but at the age of seven, the two were indivisible.



STAR WARS



What is your most prized *Star Wars* item?

I bought one of The Vader Project customized helmets at auction at *Star Wars Celebration Europe*. The helmet was customized by graffiti artists Dan & Dan and when I bought it, was yet to be finished. When they learned I had purchased it, they customized the design just for me. It's sky blue with an intricate pattern of characters and designs swirling around the faceplate and lower part of the helmet. On the left temple, you can clearly see me and Nick Frost [Simon's friend and regular co-star] wearing bunny costumes. It's a prized possession.



Which *Star Wars* character is completely underrated and why?

Nien Nunb never gets the props he deserves. That flappy-faced Sullustan co-piloted the *Falcon* through the center of the second Death Star and helped take out its reactor core. Not only that, he was on his game 100 percent throughout that battle. He had his big black eyes on the Star Destroyers as well as the fighters and maintained a buffer of practical strategic defensive and offensive maneuvering, a perfect counter-point to Lando's recklessness. They were a formidable team, and thanks to Nunb's careful pragmatic co-piloting, he helped save the Rebellion, and the entire galaxy.



EXPANDED

Be sure to check out all of Simon Pegg's activities on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/simonpegg>

UNIVERSE

What is it about the original *Star Wars* films that make you want to watch them over and over again?

They had such an effect on me as a child. I owe them a debt of gratitude for expanding my imagination and cultivating my love for cinema, literature, and even music. They have huge emotional significance for me. I know the *Star Wars* galaxy is fraught with danger, but for me, it is a safe place to go if ever I feel out of sorts. It's a place I can escape to and feel happy.

Your movie *Paul* is about traveling around the U.S. with an alien. Who would you rather go on a road trip with: R2-D2 or Chewbacca?

Chewie! They'd both be good at keeping the vehicle going because they both have technical skills, but if we wanted to stop off and go for a hike, R2-D2 would be a bit of a drag, unless he used the little jet pack that none of us knew he had until 2002. Also, I'd feel safer with Chewie going through some of the more remote areas. I've been into a few bars in Middle America; they can be like the Mos Eisley cantina. The music's good but you have to watch your step, particularly if you're from out of town.



ARTOO AND THREEPIO'S GREATEST HITS!

TEN MEMORABLE EXPANDED UNIVERSE ADVENTURES OF THE DYNAMIC DROID DUO!

WORDS: JASON FRY

They're *Star Wars*' odd couple—a fussy golden biped who speaks more than six million languages and specializes in etiquette and protocol, paired with a spunky, barrel-shaped astromech who communicates solely (yet quite effectively) through a complex series of beeps and whistles.

Whatever the adventure, wherever the location, you can always count on C-3PO to wish he were someplace more civilized, where he'd be less likely to be shot at by stormtroopers or battle droids, or pulverized by asteroids. Just as certain, you can count on R2-D2 to coolly save our heroes from certain death when all else has failed.

The novels of *Star Wars*' Expanded Universe have given Artoo and Threepio plenty of opportunities for heroics—and some surprising star turns along the way. Here are 10 of their greatest moments from the novels.



THREEPIO 1, BUREAUCRATS 0

In Kristine Kathryn Rusch's *The New Rebellion* (1996), Threepio and Artoo must discover who's

sabotaging the New Republic's X-wings—a mystery that gets Artoo shot and Threepio buried in rubble. And that's before they tackle a receptionist droid charged with keeping petitioners away from Mon Mothma. "We are above your petty bureaucratic power gambits," Threepio warns, adding that "I will personally make certain that you are demoted to working as a translator for mechanical garbage compactors." As protocol goes, that's pretty bare-knuckled.



LICENSE REVOKED

Han Solo missed a lot while entombed in carbonite, including a mission to Coruscant, in which Luke, Lando,

and Leia ran afoul of criminal kingpin Prince Xizor. As told in 1996's *Shadows of the Empire* by Steve Perry, Luke and Lando leave the droids on the *Millennium Falcon* while they infiltrate Xizor's castle. When the *Falcon*'s hiding place is discovered, Threepio has to take the wheel—and as Luke listens in horror via comlink, the protocol droid crunches through a billboard and a broadcasting tower. But he also manages to arrive just in time to save his friends—which is more than good enough, under the circumstances.



LOVE BUZZ

Not all of the droids' heroics came in Luke's service. In 2008's *The Clone Wars*, we see Anakin Skywalker and Ahsoka Tano escape

Teth's monastery on the back of a can-cell, with Artoo using his booster rockets to follow. But how did Anakin and Ahsoka get a ride on a giant fly? Karen Traviss explains that the can-cells are attracted by the engine sounds of the Republic's gunships, which they think are mating calls. Can Artoo mimic the sound of a gunship? The little droid responds that he can mimic the full range of Republic vessels—and Separatist ones too, if he's asked nicely!



A LAST MEAL

In Aaron Allston's *Rebel Stand* (2002), Han and Leia are captured on Aphran, leaving Artoo to plan a rescue by

taking advantage of the literal-mindedness of droids. Artoo discovers a loophole in the prison computers' routines for prisoner care. After a bit of messing with images in a database, Threepio is able to walk a lightsaber and blaster right through security and have them brought to Han and Leia. Thanks to Artoo, the prison computers recognize them as various Corellian foods. Leia's reaction as the weapons are delivered for breakfast? "Well, that makes this my favorite prison ever."





QUESTIONS OF MORTALITY

An intriguing subplot of the *New Jedi Order* series sees Threepio wrestle with the thought of

his own destruction or obsolescence. Artoo doesn't think much of his counterpart's musings, telling the golden droid to face the end bravely. But in *Rebel Stand* (2002), Threepio finds an unlikely philosophical partner: the combat droid YVH 1-1A. The two watch sparks fall from Han's welding torch and wonder if sparks feel fear at knowing their end is near—an unexpectedly touching scene amidst the tale of galactic war.



HOW CLUMSY OF ME!

Threepio isn't a warrior, unless you mean that skirmish with "Jedi dogs" on Geonosis (don't

ask him—he doesn't remember). But he proves an effective adversary when Viqi Shesh and a squad of Yuuzhan Vong infiltrators come to kidnap baby Ben Skywalker in Troy Denning's *Star by Star* (2001). One offer of refreshments and a dropped glass ball later, the commandos are down and Shesh is running for her life. Was it something Threepio said?



A CORELLIAN'S CYRANO

If you needed a hint that 1994's *The Courtship of Princess Leia* would be different, you got it early in Dave

Wolvert's book. After an intoxicated Han turns to Threepio for romantic advice, Threepio tries to help, and on Dathomir he breaks out a song he's written—"The Virtues of King Han Solo"—with accompanying symphonic music and even a tap-dance routine. Princess Leia is agog. You will be, too.



TAKE THAT!

In Timothy Zahn's *Dark Force Rising* (1992), Luke falls under the spell of Joruss C'baoth, becoming judge and

jury for the poor inhabitants of Jomark. Mara Jade breaks the dark side's hold, but she and Luke then face C'baoth's fury. It's a short fight. Artoo, sitting ignored in Luke's X-wing, opens up with the starfighter's cannons, knocking C'baoth out. "Artoo," an impressed Luke muses, "wasn't shooting to kill."



OLD MEMORIES

As every *Star Wars* fan knows, Threepio has his memory wiped at the end of *Revenge of the Sith*. But Artoo's memory

banks contain information of enormous interest to Luke and Leia as they wrestle with their family's legacy. In Denning's *Dark Nest* trilogy (2005), Luke stumbles across a recording of Anakin and Padmé discussing his dream that she will die in childbirth—only to have Artoo refuse to show more. When Luke finally unlocks Artoo's memory, the two trilogies are knit together by the little droid who witnessed it all.



ARTOO ATTACK!


One of the many treats of Matthew Stover's *Luke Skywalker and the Shadows of Mindor* (2008) is seeing things from Artoo's perspective.

When Han, Leia, and Chewie are dragged deep into the planet Mindor and assaulted by Melters, we watch Artoo monitor things with a computer's precision, until an old subroutine activates—and it's time for the little droid to go to war.

What does the future hold for this unlikely droid duo? If the past is any guide, lots of arguments, calculations of odds, and interfacing with computers, both helpful and malign. And, you can be sure, there will be unexpected duties and last-minute rescues. After decades of adventures, Artoo and Threepio can expect as much—as can all the readers who have grown to love them. 🐾







MAKERS

STAR WARS CREATOR GEORGE LUCAS AND DAVE FILONI,
SUPERVISING DIRECTOR OF *STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS*,
OFFER SOME HINTS ABOUT WHAT'S TO COME IN SEASON THREE.



After six live-action films and two seasons of *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*, is there anything we haven't seen yet?

Dave Filoni: You'd be surprised. In fact, you *will* be surprised by some of the things we've got in store for Season Three. We're going to jump around in the timeline; we're going to see prequel episodes that allow us to add new perspectives to the stories. It's fun to be able to have access to the full history of our characters. As Obi-Wan says, many of the truths we cling to are dependent on our point of view, and we're going to shift that point of view quite a bit. We're expanding on a lot of established ideas from both the series and the films. We're also going to revisit some of the fan-favorite characters from the live-action saga, exploring their back-stories and how they relate to the events of the Clone Wars. As we continue to dig deeper into *Star Wars*, it becomes more and more evident that there is no shortage of stories to tell.

George Lucas: We're looking at some classic characters and introducing some new ones based on universal archetypes. We're going back to the roots of *Star Wars*. Much of Season Three is going to explore the mythological aspects of the universe and the Force in ways that we haven't seen before. When I first wrote the original *Star Wars*, it was rooted heavily in archetypal mythologies. It's always been an important part of the story, but we're taking it further and revealing more. We're going beyond the war effort that we've seen in the first two seasons.

"WE'RE GOING BACK TO THE ROOTS OF *STAR WARS*." —GEORGE LUCAS

"Secrets Revealed" is the overall theme for the season. What kind of secrets can we expect to learn?

DF: If I told you, they wouldn't be secrets. But I can say that we are delving into some important territory, and uncovering some really interesting facets of the *Star Wars* universe. Anakin's destiny—and the prophecy of the Chosen One—was introduced tangentially in *The Phantom Menace*; it was discussed by Qui-Gon and the Jedi Council; but we are going to explore what that means. Ultimately, it's really important to Anakin's future and the future of the galaxy.

GL: The movies are just the tip of the iceberg. The galaxy is vast, and the stories are more complex than anything we've seen. The movies focused on one thread of the Skywalker story, but there's more to *The Clone Wars* than that. We are going to learn more about the characters—where they're coming from and where they're going.



WHERE IS BEN QUADINAROS?

One question haunted Dave Filoni over the course of Celebration V. At every panel and every press conference, there was always a lone voice asking: "When will Ben Quadinaros appear in *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*?" *Star Wars Insider* has some bad news for the many thousands of fans of the Toong of the planet Tund...

Dave Filoni: He's not a very practical guy to work with! We would have to change most of the spaceships to allow that big head to fit through the doors. How does he reach the controls of his ship? He can barely reach his

mouth with those hands! Imagine if we took the time in one of our episodes to explain what happens to him after the Boonta Eve Classic—well, the sad thing is, I can imagine it!

We have such a narrow range of characters and assets, we're very careful which ones we choose. We try to do a balance of classic characters that include some based on designs you saw in the Mos Eisley cantina. We like to use concepts that Ralph McQuarrie and Doug Chiang came up with that didn't see the light of day, as well as our new characters. It's always a blend.



DAVE FILONI ON THE CHOSEN ONE

Henry Gilroy (*Star Wars: The Clone Wars* writer) and I often talk about what the Jedi must think it means to be the Chosen One in this time of war. Maybe they think it means that unlike most of the other Jedi, Anakin is incredibly adept at fighting and also incredibly powerful, so that there seems to be some relevance to him fighting in the Clone Wars. But what do Yoda and Mace Windu believe it really means to have balance?

Season Three deals with important stuff, and it deals with a lot of things that we've been waiting to have at least brought to the front of the story. When George was handing out some of the Season Three outlines to me and the writers, we were just like, "Wow, really? Really?" It was a great time for us to just have the experience of sitting down with him and getting into the nature of those things. The fans will not be disappointed!

What are some of the changes we can expect to see in the characters?

GL: Time's passing, and the characters are changing accordingly. Ahsoka's growing up, and Anakin's getting closer to his destiny.

The opening crawl for *Revenge of the Sith* said there were heroes on both sides. We are going to see what that means and how that affects the characters.

DF: We're going to see some significant growth from our characters and we're going to start to see those changes reflected in their aesthetics. Because of our extremely tight production schedule, we are limited by our character assets—the digital models that we use in animating the series. But the stories are changing and so are the characters.



Jedi Master Di



Baron Papanoida

After three seasons, we're going to see changes in the way they look, too. It doesn't happen right away, but we are moving toward the look that fans know from Episode III.

Speaking of the look of the series, how has the production improved over the course of three seasons? **DF:** We keep improving our tools and our production pipelines. You can already begin to see the improvement between the first and second seasons; the improvement between the second and third seasons is even more exponential. We're doing things and telling stories that just wouldn't have been possible before. We brought in Industrial Light & Magic's Joel Aron [see *Star Wars Insider* 120] to share some production tips; it's one of the benefits of sharing resources with other Lucasfilm companies. He's helped tremendously. We're building our asset library and learning better

Savage
Opress

"WE'RE DOING THINGS AND TELLING STORIES THAT JUST WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE BEFORE." —DAVE FILONI

"THE MOVIES ARE JUST THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG." —GEORGE LUCAS



Matt Lanter, Ashley Eckstein, Dave Filoni, George Lucas, Cary Silver, Catherine Taber, James Arnold Taylor, and Dee Bradley Baker launch Season Three of *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* with a special screening for kids from the Boys & Girls Clubs of San Francisco.

ways of bringing existing assets to the screen. It's allowing us to visit planets we couldn't have imagined in the first two seasons, simply from a production standpoint.

GL: I haven't limited myself with what stories I've wanted to tell; this is *Star Wars*, and I don't make a distinction between the series and the films. It's just a different format and a different delivery. But the fact

of the matter is that our improved production processes have allowed us to tell consistently bigger stories. Our teams are constantly pushing the envelope, so that the standard keeps rising higher and higher. And we keep asking for more than can be delivered, so we're always reaching and the show is always improving. Each week is a *Star Wars* feature, boiled down to 22 minutes.

Do you have any new villains in store for Season Three?

GL: We've got a new character —Savage Opress. He's like Darth Maul, only bigger and angrier. When he's around, you'll forget about the bounty hunters for a while —but they'll be back, too.

DF: We're packing more and more into each episode. We've got more planets, bigger space battles, more dynamic lightsaber duels. There are weird aliens, noble heroes, ruthless villains—everything you expect from *Star Wars* and even some fan-favorite characters from the features. As a director and as a fan, this feels like the *Star Wars* I grew up with. ☺

"THIS IS STAR WARS, AND I DON'T MAKE A DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE SERIES AND THE FILMS." —GEORGE LUCAS

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THE CLONE WARS

DUG OUT

I HAVE
A BAD FEELING
ABOUT THIS.

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MALASTARE.



CLANKERS
TOOK OUT OUR
THRUSTERS, GENERAL.
WE'RE NOT GETTING
OUT OF HERE ANY
TIME SOON.

AT LEAST
YOUR MEN MADE
IT OUT ALIVE. COUNT
YOURSELF LUCKY,
COMMANDER.

I'M PICKING UP
A CONCENTRATION
OF METAL UP AHEAD,
GENERAL. HAS TO
BE THE DROID
ENCAMPMENT.

GOOD
WORK,
SOLDIER.

AFTER THAT
LANDING, I CAN'T
WAIT TO BUST
SOME METAL
SKULLS!

YOUR
ENTHUSIASM DOES
YOU CREDIT, BUT BE
MINDFUL, LITTLE
'SOKA.

REPUBLIC
INTELLIGENCE
HAS TRACKED
SEVERAL HEAVILY-
CLOAKED COMMANDO
DROID SHUTTLES
TO THIS AREA.

WHATEVER
THEY'RE UP TO,
THEY DON'T WANT
ANYONE KNOWING
ABOUT IT.

BUT WHY COME HERE,
MASTER PLO? MALASTARE IS
UNDERDEVELOPED AS IT IS
AND AREAS LIKE THIS STILL
REMAIN UNMAPPED.

THE COUNCIL
SUSPECTS THAT THE
SEPARATISTS ARE HERE
SEARCHING FOR DEADLY
NATURAL PREDATORS...

*...SUCH AS THE
NOW-EXTINCT
ZILLO BEAST.*

IF THEIR
TECHNICIANS
CAN GET A SAMPLE
OF ZILLO DNA, THEY
MIGHT BE ABLE TO
CLONE A NEW WAR
BEAST.

IMAGINE A
PACK OF THOSE
LOOSE ON
CORUSCANT!

ONE
WAS BAD
ENOUGH!





I SENSE
SOMETHING,
MASTER -- A
WHISPER IN
THE FORCE.

YOU'RE RIGHT,
AHSOKA, BUT IT'S
HARD TO...



...TELL!

THE
TROOPS!



IT'S A
TRAP!

MASTER,
IS IT POSSIBLE
THAT SOMETHING
CAN HIDE FROM
THE FORCE?



IN MY
EXPERIENCE,
PADAWAN -- NOT
FOR LONG.

THAT DOESN'T
REASSURE ME,
MASTER!



HIGH ALERT,
PEOPLE.
DESTINATION
AHEAD.

RIGHT,
GENERAL. MY
SENSORS SHOW THE
CONCENTRATION
OF METAL...





WAIT,
DON'T...

I DON'T
THINK THEY'RE
WILLING TO
NEGOTIATE!

THESE DUGS
APPEAR UNTOUCHED
BY CIVILIZATION. I DON'T
THINK THEY'VE EVER
HEARD BASIC BEING
SPOKEN BEFORE!

THEY
ARE MERELY
PROTECTING
THEIR TERRITORY.
WE MUST NOT
ANTAGONIZE
THEM.

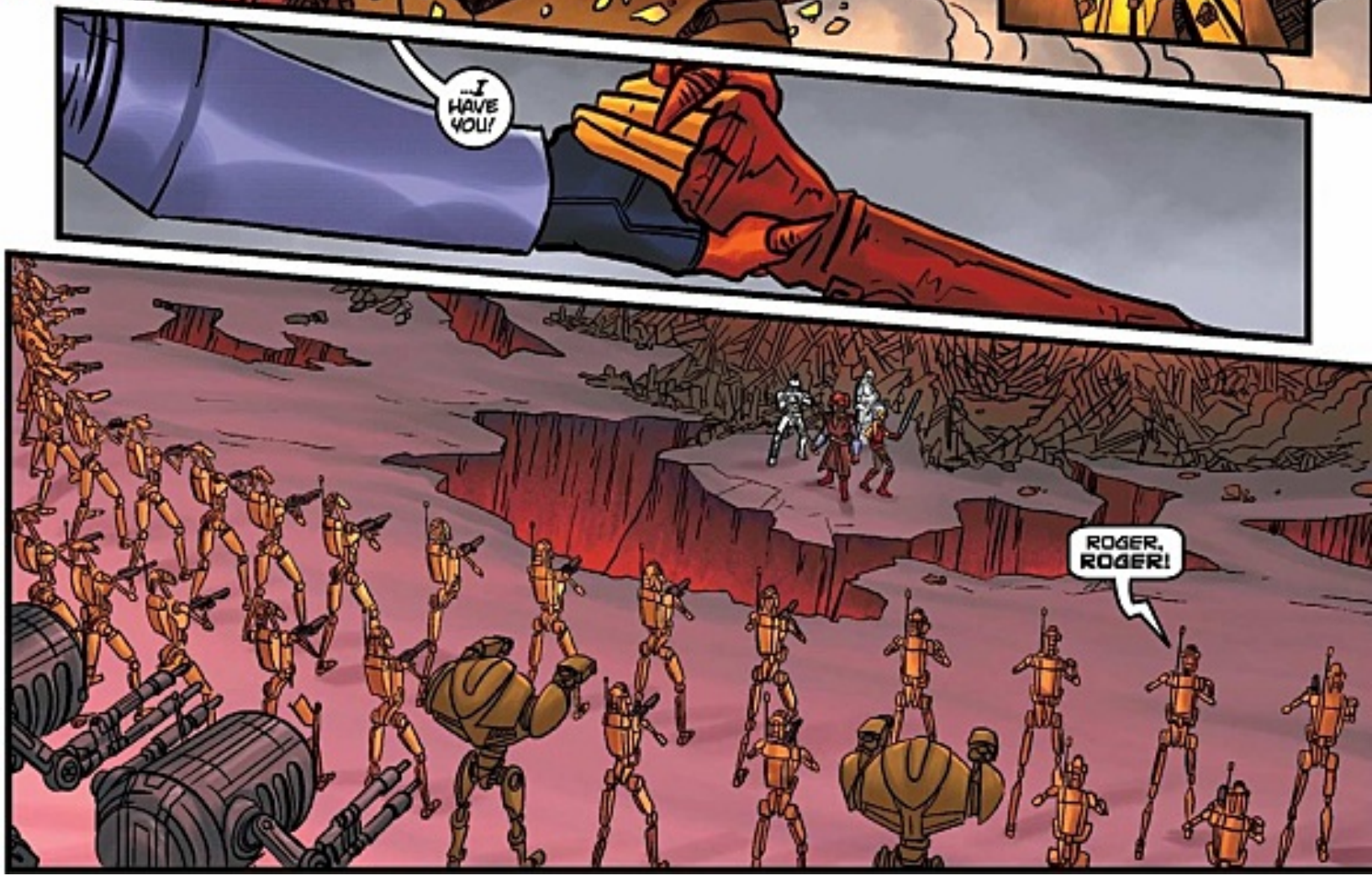
WHAT
DO WE DO,
MASTER
PLO?

6015
15412
27934!


THEY'RE
USING THE
TEETH OF THE
ZILLO BEAST AS
WEAPONS,
MASTER.

IF WE
DON'T FIGHT
BACK, WE'LL
BE KILLED!









... I HAVE
YOU NOW!

KABOOM

WRITER
RIK HOSKIN
ARTIST
WILL SLINEV

COLORS
DIGIKORE
LETTERS
ANDREW
JAMES

OUTGUNNED





WHAT IN THE NAME OF THE FORCE HAPPENED OUT HERE?

THIS WAS A REPAIR YARD BEFORE THE CLONE WARS ERUPTED, COMMANDER...

...NOW IT'S JUST SO MUCH DEAD SPACE.

WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO TAKE THE CONTROLS? I AM THE SUPERIOR PILOT.

I THINK YOU'VE DONE ENOUGH DAMAGE FOR ONE DAY.

TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT THE HYPERDRIVE AND SEE IF YOU CAN GET IT UP AND RUNNING.

YOU GOT IT.

MEANWHILE, I'LL TRY TO SHAKE OUR PURSUER!







FIX IT, ANAKIN! QUICKLY!
CAD BANE'S CATCHING
UP WITH US!

PEEP PEEP PEEP PEEP PEEP PEEP PEEP PEEP



STEP ASIDE,
MASTER, I NEED
TO ADJUST
THE ROTA--

PEEP PEEP PEEP PEEP PEEP PEEP PEEP PEEP



--UGH!

HE'S
REAL CLOSE,
GENERAL!

AND WE'RE
AS DEAD AS A
TAUNTAUN CUB IN A
WAMPA CAVE UNLESS
WE FIND A WAY OUT
OF HERE. COME
ON, ANAKIN!

PEEP PEEP PEEP PEEP PEEP PEEP PEEP PEEP



OKAY...

THE HYPERDRIVE'S BACK
ONLINE, BUT OUR SUBLIGHT ENGINES
CAN'T OUTFRIN HIM. AND WITHOUT
OUR LASER CANNON...



...WE'RE
TRAPPED!



WE'RE NOT
OUTGUNNED YET,
ANAKIN.

HEAD FOR
THE MYNOCKS!
NOW!

I'VE NEVER
DOUBTED YOU,
MASTER...



...BUT I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THIS!

TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS! MORE IMPORTANTLY, TRUST *MINE*!



MASTER? WHAT ARE YOU DOING? THAT'S THE *TIBANNA* GAS RELEASE!

WITHOUT THAT, OUR WEAPONS WON'T—

USE YOUR HEAD, ANAKIN -- THE CANNON'S ALREADY OUT OF ACTION...



...BUT THE *TIBANNA* GAS WILL STILL ATTRACT THE *MYNOKS*!



THOSE *MYNOKS* WILL CAUSE A LOT OF DAMAGE TO THE HULL...

JUST KEEP GOING -- AND FIRE A *DISTRESS FLARE*...



...TO ENSURE CAD BANE WON'T LOSE US!



HEH! NOW THEIR SYSTEMS ARE EXPLODING? ALL TOO EASY.

THIS MAY LACK A CERTAIN... THRILL, BUT I'D NEVER TURN DOWN AN EASY PAYDAY!



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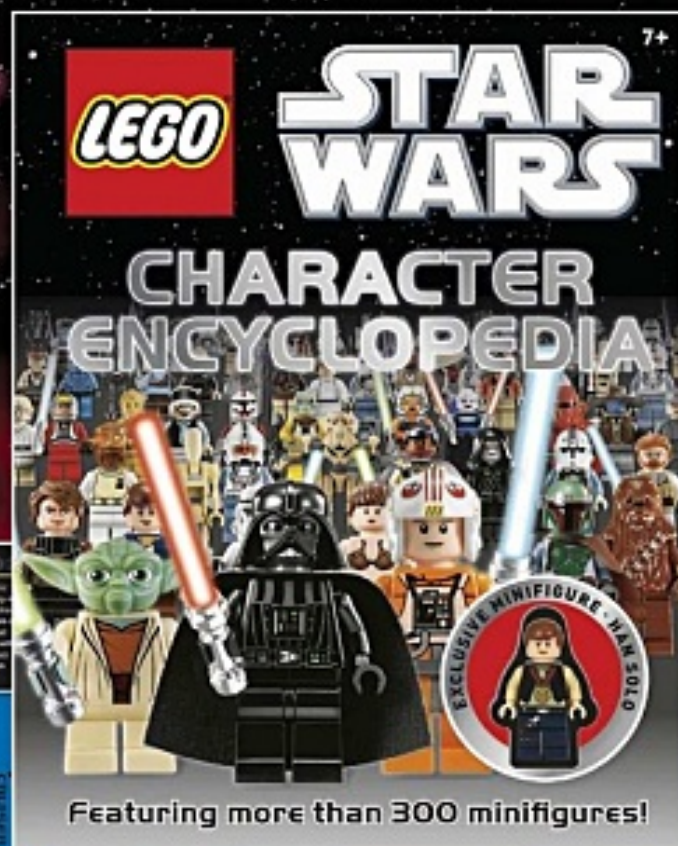
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